

Abstract

The presented work „Racial Integration of U.S. Professional Baseball in 1940's and 1950's“ deals with circumstances and motives, which led to the breakthrough in racial segregation in major baseball leagues a few years before the civil rights movement in 1950's and 1960's. Most of American society in 1940's followed the racial segregation rules. The thesis approaches motives and roots, which led to baseball integration in time of unchallenged segregationist conventions. The main goal is to analyze the impact of the personal motives of Brooklyn Dodgers general manager Branch Rickey as well as the impact of outer factors, the Second World War and 1940's New York State law-making process on this issue. According to conclusions, Rickey was instrumental in ending racial discrimination in baseball. This move was caused by coordination of economic, sports and strictly personal reasons. Above all, the success of the integration was based on New York State laws forbidding the segregation in employment and putting pressure on segregated institutions, thus on professional baseball organizations.